

Hob Nobbing With the Bentley Boys.

Bentley Drivers Club Silverstone 13th August

A tongue-in-cheek report by the inimitable Bob Bull.

With the Annual Bentley Drivers Club August Race Meeting being the 74th running of this popular event, it was somewhat surprising to find there were more products from Malvern than from Crewe! Well that is how it seemed, for there were two outings for the hairy chested Aero Challenge mob, plus the Techniques Trophy, for the more refined types, (ie. those who could only, afford, four cylinders. Should such a feast of Morgan not be sufficient to satisfy the lusts of the dedicated Mog Watcher, there were also assorted models out in the FISCAR race, and the Hawthorn & Classic Cup race.

As tradition dictates Oliver Bryant wheeled out 1 MOG for its annual intrusion into the Challenge, and duly wrapped up two wins, however, for a change he had some competition in the unlikely form of a 1952 Plus 4, driven by Billy Bellinger. The vehicle in question turned out to be the legendary 'Black Sheep' more familiar as a scruffy old car and driver combination with Barry Sumner at the wheel. No more the black sheep of the family, instead we had a gleaming, immaculately prepared monster, ready to roar. Well the two lads went off and did their own thing, leaving Bill Lancashire to take an easy 3rd place and Class 1 win, Guess who was next up? That's right Andrew Thompson in his ARV6 followed by Simon OG in his ARV6, both having to hunt down a mint green +6 that had made a lightning start, Tom Andrew at the wheel. Newcomer, Alex Lees impressed again coming home ahead of Brett, Craig, and Sam Butterworth to complete the top ten. The rest dribbled in one-by-one, apart from Phil Tisdall barely squeaking past the tablecloth in front of an improving Jim Mountain, Steve Lockett once again clinched Class 4, thus keeping up his bid for the ultimate prize - overall Champion. Michele Bailey finished 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and last in Class 5,

Tom Andrew declined to bother with the second race, so the top five simply did it all again, saving me a lot of writing, and allowing Alex Lees to improve his position without having to work at it. Maybe I am not being fair to the lad, as he had to see off a fierce challenge from Craig & Brett. Mark Butterworth was 9th while Greg Parnell took the last top ten place, with Steve L. next, for yet another Class 4 victory. A number of other Morgans also finished in the usual random order, dependant on ability, ambition, purse, and whether you needed the car to drive home.

They get to do it all over again at Oulton Park. Is there no end to their enthusiasm?